

GCL Ministries, Inc.

Agreement & Policy Information

Welcome to GCL Ministries. This document contains important information about our services and policies. Please read it carefully and take note of any questions that you may have so we can discuss them. Once this document is signed, it will constitute your consent for us through GCL to come alongside and serve you.

Our Philosophy

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We believe that knowing God is the greatest good that can happen to a person, and the meaning of life is ultimately found in Jesus Christ. We believe that the local church is God's primary intended means to minister to, care for, and equip people in the Christian faith. We believe that the oversight of appointed shepherds within the local church, along with the empowerment and gifting of the Holy Spirit, the preaching and teaching of God's Word and His Gospel, and the gathering and fellowship of believers, all serve in foundational and core ways in the life of a person.

The heart of GCL Ministries is to come alongside the local church and help people with a biblical perspective to their situation. When addressing questions regarding our anthropology, our understanding of human nature, and the issues of life regarding purpose, needs, and the role of relationships, we believe that the Bible is the ultimate authority in shaping our worldview on these kinds of topics. As we minister to the whole person, we first build on the practical application of biblical truths to real life issues and will also embrace other necessary truths regarding the physiology and shaping influences of the person, always striving to provide biblical counsel and practical help with humility and integrity.

In our attempt to provide practical help, true counsel, and genuine hope in this way, we also believe that God's intended purpose for Christians is to not walk out life independent of God, of the local church, of pastoral oversight and care, and of Christian fellowship and accountability. We kindly recommend that those pursuing counseling through GCL Ministries consider, on an agreeable and as needed basis, granting permission for the counselor to interact with an advocate such as a pastor or church leader and/or a trusted friend or family member with whom an accountable mentoring relationship can function, enhancing the counseling process.

_____ (Initial)

Sessions, Fee/Payment Policy & Cancellations

The fee for a one-hour session ranges from \$110 to \$130. Fees vary based on the counselor's credentials, and on the context of the kind of service that is provided.

Payment for each session is cash, check, or electronic payment completed online and payable to God Changes Lives Ministries or GCLM, and is expected at the time the session is held unless there is an agreement otherwise. Payment schedules for other services will be agreed to at the time these services are requested. The services rendered will be billed to the counselee and not to any third-party payer. There is a service charge reflecting the bank fee of all returned checks. If nonpayment of expenses leads to legal action, certain information may be required to be released and will not be considered confidential. **All fees are subject to change, and in the event of fee changes, you will be notified prior to such changes.**

GCL Ministries **does not participate with insurance and does not provide Mental Health CPT Codes for insurance reimbursement**; however, documentation can be provided for you to submit to your insurance company for possible reimbursement. If there is a need for financial help, we suggest seeking assistance from your local church.

Cancellations less than 24 hours before the scheduled appointment **will be charged sixty percent of the fee** for the missed session.

_____ (Initial)

Financial Terms

I acknowledge that I am responsible to pay for the services provided at the rate agreed upon. I understand that I am responsible for pursuing any reimbursement I may receive from my insurance. If I want documentation to submit to my insurance for reimbursement, I will notify my counselor. I understand that my information may be shared with other individuals for scheduling and billing purposes.

_____ (Initial)

Counseling/Coaching/Pastoral Care Work Agreement

To make the most of the counseling process, assertive participation achieves the best results, while casual participation usually results in minimal progress. While benefits are the desired and expected outcome, no specific outcomes can be guaranteed.

The time frame of help will vary depending on the severity of the identified issues and the current circumstances surrounding the person seeking help. Suspension, termination, or referral can be discussed between the counselor/coach at any time.

_____ (Initial)

Out of Session Contact

All counseling, coaching and pastoral care issues are to be discussed in-session. The counselor or coach does not provide services through email, text or social media platforms. Please be aware that your privacy is not guaranteed through messaging by phone, text or email.

GCL Ministries will answer most calls on a weekday and within business day hours. During this timeframe we strive to return missed phone calls on the same day or within 24 to 48 hours of the time that a message is left. We value phone calls for scheduling appointments and answering brief questions, and when needed, to speak with a counselor. Phone conversations or email dialogue with a counselor that are over ten minutes will be prorated on the basis of the hourly charge. If there is a life-threatening emergency and you or someone you know is suicidal, please call your local emergency numbers, inform the appropriate leaders in your church, and proceed to your local emergency center.

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Confidentiality

Within the limitations discussed below, the information disclosed and discussed during our counseling or coaching relationship will be kept confidential within the counseling or coaching staff of GCL Ministries and your advocate(s). However, certain conditions do require that confidentiality and privileged communication be breached.

These conditions include the following:

(1) If you present a physical, emotional, or biblically moral danger to yourself; (2) If you present a physical, emotional, or biblically moral danger to another person, which can include but not be exclusive to, verbal or physical abuse, passive-aggressive actions or manipulation, and a communicable disease that can be life-threatening to others; (3) If there is reason to believe that child abuse or neglect is present, a report must be filed with a state child protection agency; (4) If there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against an elder person (60 years or older), or dependent adult; (5) A medical emergency exists; (6) There is a threat of commission of a crime on the premises; (7) If a legitimate court order is issued; and (8) If the counseling is ordered or under the supervision of the court. All counselors serving through GCL Ministries will not be responsible for any injury or claim for damages arising from the release of records or information as by reasons explained above and by the law.

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Counseling for Minors, Married Couples & Families

Parents are God’s representatives to their child and are an authority in the upbringing and training of their children as minors. We consider it essential that parents be involved in their child’s counseling, if the child is a minor and are also open to counseling for themselves in areas that may be related to the minor’s presenting issue. We will only provide counseling to children under the age of 18 who give written consent to consult with their parents or legal guardians.

When serving couples and children, we adopt a “no secrets” rule. That is, should a counselor speak individually with either party, the counselor prefers to disclose necessary information to the other party.

It is important that when serving families, each person feels safe to speak openly and honestly, without fears that information revealed in counseling will be revealed in court and used negatively. In order to best serve the family involved, we encourage that you agree not to request a counselor as a witness or attempt to subpoena records in the event of pursuing a divorce or any other court matter. While a judge may overrule this agreement and issue a court order for information, your signature(s) below reflects your agreement not to request a counselor as a witness, nor attempt to subpoena counseling records.

_____ (Initial)

Online/Virtual Services Terms and Conditions

GCL Ministries offers a virtual platform for counseling, coaching, and pastoral care, and the GCL staff is willing to discuss the benefits and risks of the virtual session and address any questions. We cannot guarantee the security of Internet transmissions. In initialing and signing this form, you agree to an understanding of the benefits and risks of a virtual session and permanently agree to release and indemnify God Changes Lives Ministries and your counselor from all suits, claims, and other actions originating from counseling, coaching and pastoral care services provided online through GCL Ministries.

_____ (Initial)

Agreement

I have read the GCL Ministries Agreement & Policy Information fully and completely. I have discussed with a counselor or coach any questions about this information, and I understand and agree to all the terms and conditions regarding this information. I understand that there are no guarantees stated or implied, and I accept the risks inherent in the course of counseling or coaching.

Print Name Client 1

Signature Client 1

Date

Print Name Client 2

Signature Client 2

Date

Print Name Client 3

Signature Client 3

Date

Print Name Client 4

Signature Client 4

Date

Print Name Counselor/Coach

Signature Client Counselor/Coach

Date